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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for displaying an e-mail collection, the e-mail collection including a plurality of e-mail messages assigned to one or more categories and subcategories, the method comprising:
receiving a sequence of e-mail messages;
categorizing each of the e-mail messages into at least one of a plurality of categories; and
displaying each of the categorized messages in accordance with a user-defined display specification, wherein the display specification specifies, for each category and subcategory, the manner in which the messages categorized within that particular category or subcategory are to be displayed in a top-level representation of the entire e-mail collection,
and
wherein at least one category or subcategory is displayed in a different manner than at least one other category or subcategory one of a plurality of levels of granularity for how the categorized messages in each of the plurality of categories are displayed.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving a plurality of display specifications from a user;
storing the received display specifications; and
receiving a user selection of one of the plurality of stored display specifications; and
displaying the e-mail collection, wherein the displaying of the e-mail messages is in accordance with the user selected display specification.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein one of the plurality of levels of granularity in the display specification provides that for the display of the e-mail messages in at least one of the plurality of categories and subcategories are encapsulated by encapsulating the messages into threads, and that the top-level display of the entire e-mail collection includes one item from each thread for providing at least one item on a top-level display for each of the corresponding threads.

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4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~one of the plurality of levels of granularity in the display specification provides that for the display of the e-mail messages in at least one of the plurality of categories and subcategories are encapsulated by encapsulating the messages in the corresponding category, and that the top-level display of the entire e-mail collection includes one item from the corresponding category for providing at least one item on a top-level display for the corresponding category.~~

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the display specification includes a plurality of user-defined rule-based categories, wherein at least one of the plurality of user-defined rule-based categories is nested within another of the plurality of user-defined rule-based categories, and wherein the nested user-defined rule-based category is displayed differently than the another of the plurality of user-defined rule-based categories.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
providing an editor window display which lists the plurality of categories and a plurality of message display alternatives for the top-level representation of the e-mail collection and each of the plurality of categories; and
receiving and storing a user selection of one of the plurality of message display alternatives for at least one of the plurality of categories.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
providing at least one tool button on the top-level representation of the e-mail collection that is adapted to receive a user command to perform an operation on one or more messages associated with an identified item; and
performing the operation on the one or more messages associated with the identified item in response to a user operation of the tool button.

8. (Currently Amended) A computer controlled display system for displaying an e-mail collection, the e-mail collection including a plurality of e-mail messages assigned to one or more categories and subcategories, the system comprising:

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a display for presenting the e-mail collection on a viewing area of the display;
and

a processor that is adapted to ~~receive a sequence of e-mail messages in the e-mail collection; to categorize each of the e-mail messages into at least one of a plurality of categories; and to control the display to display the categorized messages in accordance with a user-defined display specification, wherein the display specification specifies, for each category and subcategory, the manner in which the messages categorized within that particular category or subcategory are to be displayed in a top-level representation of the entire e-mail collection, and~~

wherein at least one category or subcategory is displayed in a different manner than at least one other category or subcategory one of a plurality of levels of granularity for how the categorized messages in each of the plurality of categories are displayed.

9. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 8, wherein the processor is further adapted to:

receive a plurality of display specifications from ~~the~~ a user;

store the received display specifications; and

receive a user selection of one of the plurality of stored display specifications;

and

display the e-mail collection wherein the display of e-mail messages is in accordance with the user selected display specification.

10. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 8, wherein ~~one of the plurality of levels of granularity in the display specification provides~~ that for the display of the e-mail messages in at least one of the plurality of categories and subcategories are encapsulated by encapsulating the messages into threads, and that the top-level display of the entire e-mail collection includes one item from each thread for providing at least one item on a top level display for each of the corresponding threads.

11. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 8, wherein ~~one of the plurality of levels of granularity in the display specification provides~~ that for the display of the e-mail messages in at least one of the plurality of categories and subcategories are encapsulated by encapsulating the messages in the corresponding category, and that the top-level display of

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~~the entire e-mail collection includes one item from the corresponding category for providing at least one item on a top level display for the corresponding category.~~

12. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein the display specification includes a plurality of user-defined rule-based definitions of categories, wherein at least one of the plurality of user-defined rule-based categories is nested within another of the plurality of user-defined rule-based categories, and wherein the nested user-defined rule-based category is displayed differently than the another of the plurality of user-defined rule-based categories.

13. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 8, wherein the processor is further adapted:

to provide an editor window display which lists the plurality of categories and a plurality of message display alternatives for the top-level representation of the e-mail collection and each of the plurality of categories;

to receive and store a user selection of one of the plurality of message display alternatives for at least one of the plurality of categories.

14. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 8, wherein the processor is further adapted:

to provide a tool button on the top-level representation of the e-mail collection that is adapted to receive a user command to delete messages associated with an identified item; and

to delete the messages associated with the identified item in response to a user operation of the tool button.

15. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 8, wherein the processor is further adapted:

to receive a user command from at least one tool button on the top-level representation of the e-mail collection; and

to perform the operation on the one or more messages associated with the identified item in response to a user operation of the tool button.

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16. (Currently Amended) An information storage media comprising information that displays an e-mail collection, the e-mail collection including a plurality of e-mail messages assigned to one or more categories and subcategories, the information comprising:
~~information that receives a sequence of e-mail messages in the e-mail collection;~~
~~information that categorizes each of the e-mail messages into at least one of a plurality of categories; and~~
information that displays each of the categorized messages in accordance with a user-defined display specification, wherein the display specification specifies, for each category and subcategory, the manner in which the messages categorized within that particular category or subcategory are to be displayed in a top-level representation of the entire e-mail collection, and
wherein at least one category or subcategory is displayed in a different manner than at least one other category or subcategory one of a plurality of levels of granularity for how the categorized messages in each of the plurality of categories are displayed.

17. (Currently Amended) The media of claim 16, further comprising:
information that receives a plurality of display specifications from a user;
information that stores the received display specifications; and
information that receives a user selection of one of the plurality of stored display specifications; and
information that displays the e-mail collection, wherein the displaying of the e-mail messages is in accordance with the user selected display specification.

18. (Currently Amended) The media of claim 16, wherein ~~one of the plurality of levels of granularity in the display specification provides~~ that for the display of the e-mail messages in at least one of the plurality of categories and subcategories are encapsulated by encapsulating the messages into threads, and that the top-level display of the entire e-mail collection includes one item from each thread for providing at least one item on a top level display for each of the corresponding threads.

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19. (Currently Amended) The media of claim 16,
wherein ~~one of the plurality of levels of granularity in the display specification~~
provides ~~that for the display of the e-mail messages in at least one of the plurality of~~
~~categories and subcategories are encapsulated by encapsulating the messages in the~~
corresponding category, and that the top-level display of the entire e-mail collection includes
one item from the corresponding category for providing at least one item on a top level
display for the corresponding category.
20. (Original) The media of claim 16, wherein the display specification includes a
plurality of user-defined rule-based categories, wherein at least one of the plurality of user-
defined rule-based categories is nested within another of the plurality of user-defined rule-
based categories, and wherein the nested user-defined rule-based category is displayed
differently than the another of the plurality of user-defined rule-based categories.
21. (Currently Amended) The media of claim 16, further comprising:
information that provides an editor window display which lists the plurality of
categories and a plurality of message display alternatives for the top-level representation of
the e-mail collection and each of the plurality of categories; and
information that receives and stores a user selection of one of the plurality of
message display alternatives for at least one of the plurality of categories.
22. (Currently Amended) The media of claim 16, further comprising information
that:
receives a user command via at least one tool button on the top-level
representation of the e-mail collection that is adapted to receive a user command to perform
an operation on one or more messages associated with an identified item; and
performs the operation on the one or more messages associated with the
identified item in response to a user operation of the tool button.
23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the messages within the
categories and subcategories may be displayed plurality of levels of granularity provide for
the display of the e-mail messages as at least two of: messages; threads; and groups.

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24. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 8, wherein the messages within the categories and subcategories may be displayed plurality of levels of granularity provide for the display of the e-mail messages as at least two of: messages; threads; and groups.

25. (Currently Amended) The media of claim 16, wherein the wherein the messages within the categories and subcategories may be displayed plurality of levels of granularity provide for the display of the e-mail messages as at least two of: messages; threads; and groups.

26. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the display specification provides that each of the messages in at least one of the plurality of categories and subcategories are displayed separately in the top-level display of the entire e-mail collection.

27. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the display specification provides that at least one of the plurality of categories and subcategories, and each of the messages categorized therein, is to be omitted from the top-level display of the entire e-mail collection.

28. (New) The method of claim 7, further comprising:
supplying a tool button associated with an item requesting expansion of the item, and
if the expansion is requested, differentially performing the expansion of the item.

29. (New) The method of claim 28, further comprising expanding an item representing an entire category or subcategory on the top-level representation of the e-mail collection by displaying a list of threads whose messages are categorized within the category or subcategory selected for expansion.

30. (New) The method of claim 28, further comprising expanding an item representing an individual thread on the top-level representation of the e-mail collection by displaying the messages associated with the selected thread as a single document represented by a tree-like thread structure including at least one initial part of each of the messages.

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31. (New) The system of claim 8, wherein the display specification provides that each of the messages in at least one of the plurality of categories and subcategories are displayed separately in the top-level display of the entire e-mail collection.

32. (New) The system of claim 8, wherein the display specification provides that at least one of the plurality of categories and subcategories, and each of the messages categorized therein, is to be omitted from the top-level display of the entire e-mail collection.

33. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein the processor is further adapted:
to receive a user command from a tool button associated with an item
requesting expansion of the item; and
if the expansion is requested, to differentially perform the expansion of the
item.

34. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the processor is further adapted to expand an item representing an entire category or subcategory on the top-level representation of the e-mail collection by displaying a list of threads whose messages are categorized within the category or subcategory selected for expansion.

35. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the processor is further adapted to expand an item representing an individual thread on the top-level representation of the e-mail collection by displaying the messages associated with the selected thread as a single document represented by a tree-like thread structure including at least one initial part of each of the messages.

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